

[Handwritten: (b)(1) to DATE 2/1/88]

17192
OCTOBER 23, 1962
11:50 AM

SECRET

MOSCOW

1041, OCTOBER 23, 5 PM

ADVANCE COPY

NIACT

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EYES ONLY

ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER KUZNETSOV CALLED ME IN AT 3:00 P.M. MOSCOW TIME TO HAND ME LETTER FROM KHRUSHCHEV TO PRESIDENT (TRANSLATION OF WHICH FOLLOWS SEPTTEL), TOGETHER WITH STATEMENT OF SOVIET GOVERNMENT IN REPLY PRESIDENT'S SPEECH. STATEMENT RELEASED 4:00 P.M. MOSCOW TIME (9:00 A.M. WASHINGTON TIME), SHORTLY AFTER I RETURNED TO EMBASSY. KUZNETSOV TOLD ME TEXT OF LETTER WOULD NOT BE PUBLISHED "FOR TIME BEING."

KUZNETSOV'S ATTITUDE WAS RESTRAINED AND NOT UNFRIENDLY ON PERSONAL LEVEL. HE MADE NO ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OF ANY SUBSTANCE.

[LETTER CHARGES THAT US HAS "OPENLY TAKEN PATH OF GROSS VIOLATION OF UN CHARTER, OF VIOLATION INTERNATIONAL NORMS FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION ON HIGH SEAS, AND OF AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS BOTH AGAINST CUBA AND AGAINST SOVIET UNION," AND DECLARES SOVIET UNION CANNOT RECOGNIZE RIGHT OF US ESTABLISH CONTROL OVER ARMAMENTS NECESSARY TO CUBA TO STRENGTHEN ITS DEFENSES. LETTER "CONFIRMS THAT ARMAMENTS AT PRESENT ON CUBA, REGARDLESS OF CLASSIFICATION TO WHICH THEY BELONG, ARE DESTINED EXCLUSIVELY FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES."

SECRET

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-2- 1041, OCTOBER 23, 5 PM FROM MOSCOW

BOTH DOCUMENTS AVOID SPECIFIC THREATS AND ARE RELATIVELY RESTRAINED IN TONE. STATEMENT OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED FOR PROPAGANDA EFFECT ON SOVIET PEOPLE. LETTER, HOWEVER, APPEALS TO USG TO "SHOW PRUDENCE."

STATEMENT SAYS SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS INSTRUCTED ITS UN MISSION REQUEST IMMEDIATE CONVOCAION SECURITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER QUESTION: "ON VIOLATION UN CHARTER AND THREAT TO PEACE BY UNITED STATES AMERICA."

KOHLER

DT

NOTE: PASSED WHITE HOUSE 10/23/62 11:59 AM WVC

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Department of State

VP
72

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SECRET

Control: 17192

Rec'd: OCTOBER 23, 1962

11:50 AM

SS

FROM: MOSCOW

Info

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1041, OCTOBER 23, 5 PM

NIACT

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SANITIZED
Authority State Sec 4/22/77
By pmg, NARS, Date 6/22/77

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